

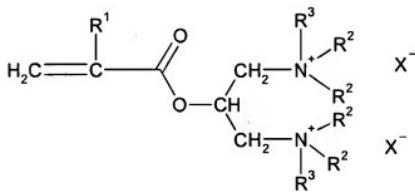
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

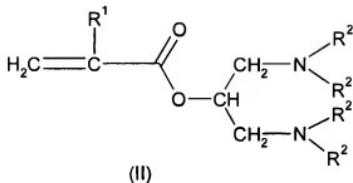
1-24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): Process for the manufacture of a (meth)acrylate di-ammonium salt of formula (I)

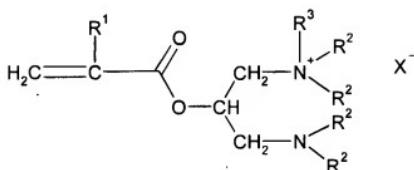


wherein R¹ represents hydrogen or methyl, each R², independently, represents ~~an~~ a C1 to C4 alkyl comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, each R³, independently, represents an alkyl or an aralkyl and each X⁻, independently, represents an anion selected from the group consisting of halides and methylsulfonates, comprising

(I) the reaction of the di-amino (meth)acrylate of formula (II)



with at least one alkyl or aralkyl derivative of formula R^3X in an aprotic dipolar organic solvent containing at most 5000 ppm of water and wherein the compound of formula (I) has a solubility at 25 °C of less than 1 g/100 g of solvent and wherein the solubility of the corresponding amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V)



has a solubility at 25 °C of at least 20 g/100 g of solvent; and

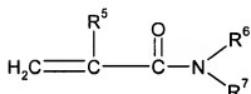
(2) the separation of the compound of formula (I) from the reaction mixture without dissolving it in water, the compound of formula (I) being separated from the reaction mixture in the form of a solid product comprising, per mole of the compound of formula (I), less than 0.1 mole of the compound of formula (V).

26. (withdrawn): Process for the manufacture of a polymer which process includes the process of claim 25 and comprises the further step (3) of polymerising of at least the compound of formula (I) contained in said solid product to achieve said polymer.

27. (withdrawn): Process according to claim 26, wherein step (3) comprises the co-polymerisation of at least 12 % by weight of the compound of formula (I) contained in said solid product with at the most 88 % by weight of at least one further monomer.

28. (withdrawn): Process according to claim 26, wherein step (3) comprises a radical co-polymerisation of a water-based solution of monomers polymerised by emulsion or suspension techniques.

29. (withdrawn-currently amended): Process according to claim 26, wherein step (3) comprises the co-polymerisation of from 1 to 99 parts by moles of the compound of formula (I) contained in said solid product with from 1 to 99 parts by moles of at least one acrylamide monomer of formula (VI)



(VI)

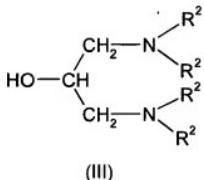
wherein R⁵ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁶ and R⁷ are, independently, hydrogen, or C1 to C6 alkyl comprising from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more hydroxy or alkoxy groups.

30. (canceled).

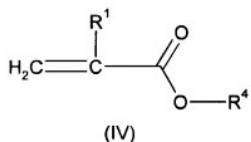
31. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the separation of the (meth)acrylate di-ammonium salt of formula (I) from the reaction mixture is done by mechanical separation.

32. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the reaction mixture obtained after step (2) is recycled.

33. (currently amended): Process according to claim 25, wherein the di-amino (meth)acrylate of formula (II) used in step (1) is prepared by the transesterification of a 1,3-di-amino-2-propanol of formula (III)



wherein each R², independently represents ~~an~~ a C1 to C4 alkyl comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, with a (meth)acrylate of formula (IV)



wherein R¹ represents hydrogen or methyl and R⁴ represents ~~on a C1 to C4 alkyl comprising~~ from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, in the presence of a lithium-catalyst.

34. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein X is Cl.
35. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the di-amino (meth)acrylate of formula (II) is allowed to react in step (1) with more than 2 equivalents of said alkyl or aralkyl derivative of formula R³X.
36. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the reaction of step (1) is effectuated in an amount of between 500 and 5000 g of solvent per mole of the di-amino (meth)acrylate of formula (II).
37. (withdrawn): Solid product, obtained by the process according to claim 25, containing the (meth)acrylate di-ammonium salt of formula (I) and, per mole of this salt, less than 0.1 mole of the corresponding amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V).
38. (withdrawn): Polymer, obtained by the process according to claim 26, containing units derived from at least one (meth)acryl di-ammonium salt of formula (I) and, per n units derived from this di-ammonium salt, less than 0.1*n units derived from at least one amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V).
39. (withdrawn): A method of using a polymer according to claim 38, comprising providing the polymer according to claim 38 as flocculant.
40. (previously presented): Process according to claim 33, wherein the lithium catalyst is chosen from Li₂O, LiOCH₃, LiOH and their mixtures.

41. (previously presented): Process according to claim 33, wherein the transesterification is done at a temperature not exceeding 120 °C.
42. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein R¹ is methyl.
43. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein R² is methyl.
44. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein R³ is methyl.
45. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein R³ is benzyl.
46. (currently amended): Process according to claim 33, wherein R⁴ in formula (IV) is methyl.
47. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein said organic solvent contains at most 1000 ppm of water.
48. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the solubility of the compound of formula (I) in said organic solvent is less than 0.5 g/100 g of solvent.
49. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the solid product which is separated from the reaction mixture comprises, per mole of the compound of formula (I), less than 0.05 mole of the compound of formula (V).
50. (previously presented): Process according to claim 25, wherein the solid product which is separated from the reaction mixture comprises, per mole of the compound of formula (I), less than 0.01 mole of the compound of formula (V).

51. (currently amended): Process according to ~~claim 30~~ claim 25, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, ethyl acetate, nitromethane, acetonitrile or mixtures thereof.

52. (previously presented): Process according to claim 51, wherein the solvent is acetonitrile.

53. (previously presented): Process according to claim 35, wherein the di-amino (meth)acrylate of formula (II) is allowed to react in step (1) with more than 2.1 equivalents of said alkyl or aralkyl derivative of formula R^3X .

54. (withdrawn): Solid product according to claim 37, containing per mole of the (meth)acrylate di-ammonium salt of formula (I) less than 0.05 mole of the corresponding amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V).

55. (withdrawn): Solid product according to claim 37, containing per mole of the (meth)acrylate di-ammonium salt of formula (I) less than 0.01 mole of the corresponding amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V).

56. (withdrawn): Polymer obtained by a process of claim 38, containing less than $0.05*n$ units derived from at least one amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V) per n units derived from said di-ammonium salt of formula (I).

57. (withdrawn): Polymer obtained by a process of claim 38, containing less than $0.01*n$ units derived from at least one amino-(meth)acrylate ammonium salt of formula (V) per n units derived from said di-ammonium salt of formula (I).